



Sierra Club

Illinois Chapter

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February 28, 2001

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL AND FAX

Mr. John P. Kos, P.E.
District Engineer
Illinois Department of Transportation
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

RE: Comments on Supplemental Final EIS for I-355 South Extension

Dear Mr. Kos:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter, representing over 20,000 Illinois citizens committed to protecting our environment for our families and our future.

3.6 We are disappointed that this Supplemental Final EIS does not contain a serious evaluation of alternatives to the tollway, despite years of discussion over the proposed tollway's significant environmental impacts, the clear availability of alternative transportation solutions for this region, and the well-documented inadequacy of the original EIS in this critical regard.

3.3 Without an adequate alternatives analysis, the entire document is fundamentally flawed. NEPA and its regulations require consideration of "all reasonable alternatives" to a proposed project. We had hoped that this supplemental process would examine an alternative that would combine substantial local arterial roadway improvements with transit and transportation demand measures. Instead, viable alternatives, such as the Action Plan put forward by public interest organizations, was ignored entirely.

If the proposed road is constructed, there will be major environmental consequences, including the taking of public parkland, destruction of wetland and forest habitats, threats to sensitive species populations, air quality degradation, polluted runoff and salt contamination, and increased flood risk, to name a few. An adequate alternatives analysis is essential to insuring that these impacts are not incurred unnecessarily,

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It public financial resources are spent in the most efficient manner. Clearly this document does not provide these assurances, and therefore is fundamentally inadequate.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Jack Darin
Director

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Document 18



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 10, 2001

Mr. John P. Kos, P.E.
District Engineer
Illinois Dept. of Transportation, District 1
210 West Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

Dear Mr. Kos:

Enclosed are comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for FAP Route 340 (I-355 South Extension), Interstate Route 55 to Interstate Route 80, Cook, DuPage and Will Counties, Illinois. We hope our comments will assist you. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Fruchter

Susan B. Fruchter
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



Document 18

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan B. Fruchter
NEPA Coordinator

FROM: Charles W. Challstrom
Director, National Geodetic Survey

SUBJECT: DEIS-0101-01 FAP Route 340 (I-355 South Extension), Interstate Route 55 to Interstate Route 80, Cook, DuPage and Will Counties, Illinois

The subject statement has been reviewed within the areas of the National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) responsibility and expertise and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects.

All available geodetic control information about horizontal and vertical geodetic control monuments in the subject area is contained on the NGS home page at the following Internet World Wide Web address: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>. After entering the NGS home page, please access the topic "Products and Services" and then access the menu item "Data Sheet." This menu item will allow you to directly access geodetic control monument information from the NGS data base for the subject area project. This information should be reviewed for identifying the location and designation of any geodetic control monuments that may be affected by the proposed project.

If there are any planned activities which will disturb or destroy these monuments, NGS requires not less than 90 days' notification in advance of such activities in order to plan for their relocation. NGS recommends that funding for this project includes the cost of any relocation(s) required.

For further information about these monuments, please contact Rick Yorczyk; SSMC3 8636, NOAA, N/NGS; 1315 East West Highway; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone: 301-713-3230 x142; fax: 301-713-4175, Email: Rick.Yorczyk@noaa.gov